

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP**  
**OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes for Thursday, September 24, 2015**  
215 Millstone Road, Millstone Twp, NJ 08535

Ms. Siedman called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

**Roll Call**

Present: (8) Butch, Denardo, Kozak, Kuczinski, Marra, Morelli, Schloss, Siedman

Absent: (3) Asprocolas, Bailey, Romano

**Public Comment Session:** Opened and closed at 7:35 pm. No public in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes**

A Motion to approve the August 24, 2015, minutes was made by Mr. Marra with a Second offered by Mr. Denardo. Roll call vote:

AYES: (6) Marra, Denardo, Kozak, Kuczinski, Schloss, Siedman

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Correspondence**

- ***Letter from Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board***, dated 9/8/15, re: Monmouth County Comprehensive Farmland Plan - Target Farm List Update. The list contains properties that the County is targeting as well as farms that have already been preserved. Properties in Millstone are highlighted and owner names have been updated.

**Old Business**

- ***Municipal Farmland Preservation Process Document Update:*** C/Kuczinski explained that the Township Committee is waiting for comments and recommendations from the OSFP Council and then they will review the document. Ms. Siedman reviewed her comments that include adding the Ag Council wherever the OSFP Council is mentioned and including the Ag Council as part of the site assessment team and site visit. Ms. Siedman will scan and email the document to the Secretary for distribution to the Council and C/Kuczinski will bring it to the Township Committee for review. Mr. Marra commented on the ranking gauge and questioned how the numerical values are supported. Ms. Butch explained that the state legislation sets minimum standards for preservation and the municipality has discretion to go beyond the minimum standards and as long as the ranking is done uniformly, the form should stand up to challenge. Mr. Marra suggested including references to supporting documentation, parameters for ranking and ordinances that give the OSFP authority to review and rank applications and also suggested having the ranking form reviewed and approved by the Township Committee. C/Kuczinski will bring this up with the Township Committee and Township Attorney.
- ***Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant #12-04, Baird Homestead Development Project:*** The County sponsored compost workshop, scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup>, has been rescheduled for spring because there were not enough people registered.
- ***Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant #14-12 - Millstone Park Phase 1 Development:*** Final drawings for storm water management and septic are being prepared. When the plans are finalized, permit applications will be submitted.

- **Historic ME Church:** The grant application has been submitted to the County.
- **Trail Maintenance & Grants:** Ms. Siedman sent an email to Ms. D'Andrea regarding stewardship of open space properties and trails. Ms. D'Andrea wrote a letter to the State requesting an extension of time for the 2011 Doctor's Creek trail grant, which was submitted by the Township. The State is looking for a definitive date for completion of the trail work. C/Kuczinski explained that the Township is requesting an extension to June 30, 2016. Mr. Specht and the Secretary will walk the Doctor's Creek Trail after the leaves fall and OSFP Council members are invited to walk the trail. Ms. D'Andrea will contact Mr. Blackwell of the Trailblazers regarding walking the trail. The Secretary will notify Council members when the date is set for the walk.  
C/Masci reached out to the Trailblazers and the DPW regarding clearing some trails. Ms. Butch provided Trailblazers maps for the DPW with areas of concern noted. The DPW will initiate clearing and inmate labor will be used to assist with the clearing.
- **Open Public Meetings Act:** Ms. Siedman explained that because five Council members constitutes a quorum, Council members should not include more than four Council members on the distribution when sending emails.

## **New Business**

- **My Community Source Article:** Additions to Perrineville Lake Park. Ms. Siedman explained that this was a great acquisition because Millstone benefited but the preservation didn't cost the Township any money; the County Park System bore 100% of the acquisition cost. The 69 acres was acquired by the County from the Horowitz's and is off Perrineville and Agress Roads.
- **County and State Funding:** C/Kuczinski asked Ms. Butch about the availability of funding from the County and the State. Ms. Butch explained that for farmland preservation, the County has plenty of money and the State's money should start flowing; if a project is started now, the funding should be available by the time a project is ready to close. For open space, the State is at the end of their money; the money from the last referendum should start coming through but the State has not yet determined how the money will be allocated. Ms. Butch explained that the Township still has money in the SADC farmland preservation fund to preserve one more small farm similar in size to the Kaut Farm.

## **Events**

- **Millstone Day:** Mr. Asprocolas donated apples which were given out. It was a beautiful day until it started raining, At approximately 3:00 pm Frogbridge cleared out when it started to rain.

## **Committee Reports**

- **Finance:** The Open Space Trust activity report with information through August was distributed for review. The 2015 municipal open space tax levy has been deposited to the trust.
- **Public Relations/Publications:** No discussion.
- **Legislative Awareness:** No discussion due to Mr. Romano's absence.
- **Stewardship:** Ms. Siedman sent an email to Ms. D'Andrea to see which properties Ms. D'Andrea would like to have documented. Information provided at the annual land rally workshops suggest stewarding properties at least every 5 to 6 years. C/Kuczinski also asked Ms. D'Andrea about when the next stewardship meeting will be held.
- **Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications:** No discussion due to Mr. Bailey's absence.

At 8:16 pm a Motion was made by Mr. Denardo with a Second offered by Ms. Schloss and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session to discuss a land acquisition project.

At 8:43 pm the Council returned to regular session. Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Denardo with a Second offered by Mr. Marra and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher  
Council Secretary